

REMARKS

At the time the present Office Action was mailed (July 10, 2007), claims 29, 31-45 and 47-61 were pending in the above-captioned application. In this response, claims 29-50 have been canceled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in unamended or other forms in a continuation or other application. Accordingly, claims 51-61 are currently pending.

The status of the application in light of the July 10, 2007 Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 29, 42, 45, 47, 48, 50 and 51 stand objected to on the basis of informalities;

(B) Claims 29, 31-45 and 47-61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph;

(C) Claims 29, 31-39, 41-45, 47, 49 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,848,389 to Gapp et al. ("Gapp") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,375,120 to Wolnek ("Wolnek"); and

(D) Claims 51-61 were indicated to be allowable if amended to overcome the Section 112 rejection.

The undersigned attorney would like to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone interview on September 19, 2007 to discuss the outstanding claim objections and rejections applied to claim 51. During the telephone interview, the Examiner and the undersigned attorney agreed to amendments that would overcome the objections and rejections. The following remarks reflect and expand upon the agreements reached during the September 19 telephone interview. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that these remarks constitute applicants' interview summary. If the Examiner notices any deficiencies in this regard, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney.

A. Response to the Claim Objections

Claims 29, 42, 45, 47, 48 and 50 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the objections to these claims are now moot. With regard to claim 51, the phrase "at least approximately" has been amended to read "approximately." As used herein, the term "approximately" covers the range between slightly smaller and slightly larger than the term it modifies, and includes all values in between. Claim 51 has been amended at line 20 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Claim 51 has been amended at line 21 to delete the phrase "affixed to." Accordingly the objection to the typographical error in this phrase is now moot. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the objections to claim 51 should be withdrawn.

B. Response to the Section 112 Rejections

Claims 29, 31-45 and 47-50 have been canceled and accordingly, the Section 112 rejections of these claims are now moot. Line 4 of claim 51 has been amended to eliminate the word "small" and lines 21-22 of claim 51 have been amended in a manner indicated by the Examiner during the September 19, 2007 telephone interview as being sufficient to overcome the outstanding Section 112 rejection of this claim. Accordingly, the Section 112 rejection of claim 51 and claims 52-61 (which depend from claim 51) should be withdrawn.

C. Response to the Section 103 Rejections

Claims 29, 31-39, 41-45, 47, 49 and 50 have been canceled without commenting on or conceding the merits of the Examiner's position with regard to these claims, and without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuation or other application. Accordingly, the outstanding rejections of these claims are now moot.

D. Response to the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

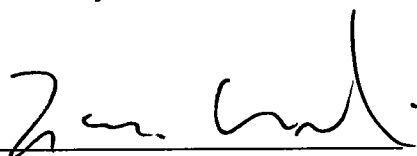
Claims 51-61 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under Section 112. Claim 51 has been so amended. Accordingly, claims 51-61 are now in condition for allowance.

E. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner notices any informalities or other matters that may be expediently handled by telephone, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (206) 359-3257.

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Respectfully submitted,

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